

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1168

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, petition of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to improving the teacher licensure process. Education.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	Viriato Manuel deMacedo
Mary S. Rogeness	Todd M. Smola
George N. Peterson, Jr.	Richard J. Ross
John A. Lepper	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO IMPROVING TEACHER LICENSURE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,  
2 there shall be a special commission to study and report on ways to  
3 improve the teacher licensure process. The commission shall con-  
4 sist of the commissioner of education; 3 members of the house of  
5 representatives, 2 of whom shall to be appointed by the speaker of  
6 the house, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority  
7 leader of the house; 3 members of the senate, 2 of whom shall be  
8 appointed by the senate president, and 1 of whom shall be  
9 appointed by the senate minority leader; the chancellor of higher  
10 education; a representative of the Massachusetts Teacher Associa-  
11 tion; and a member appointed by the governor. The scope of the  
12 commission shall include, but shall not be limited to: researching  
13 the current process of teacher licensure and ways to streamline the  
14 process of certifying qualified applicants; analyzing the effective-  
15 ness, clarity and accessibility of applications and certification via  
16 email and the internet; examining the feasibility of streamlining  
17 the application process for teachers who have previous extensive

18 experience in a public or a private school system; evaluating pos-  
19 sible options to simplify or lessen current state teacher licensure  
20 regulations; and examining the capacity of the department to  
21 process all teacher applications and certifications in a timely  
22 manner. The commission shall submit its report to the board of  
23 education, the joint committee on education, arts and humanities  
24 and the senate and house clerks no later than six months after the  
25 passage of this act.